

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (original) An apparatus for guiding a work piece through a cutting device, the apparatus comprising:

a body;

a first leg attached to the body and extending downward to form a first leg non-slip work piece-contacting surface;

a second leg attached to the body and extending downward to form a second leg non-slip work piece-contacting surface;

a center leg moveably attached to the body and extending downward between the first leg and the second leg to form a center leg non-slip work piece-contacting surface, the center leg fixable in any one of a plurality of positions; and

a handle moveably attached to a top of the body and fixable in any one of a plurality of positions.

2. (currently amended) An apparatus for guiding a work piece through a cutting device, the apparatus comprising:

a body having a top and an underside opposed the top;

a first leg attached to the body and forming a first side surface, the first leg extending below the underside of the body to ~~form~~ a first leg work piece-contacting surface perpendicular to the first side surface and parallel to a surface of a work piece;

a center leg attached against the underside of the body and extending below the underside of the body to ~~form~~ a center leg work piece-contacting surface perpendicular to the first side surface and parallel to the surface of the work piece, the center leg moveable to a plurality of positions relative to the first side surface to form a first tunnel having a selected width through which a cutting device may pass, the first tunnel defined by the first leg, the center leg and the underside of the body; and

a second leg attached to the body and forming a second side surface, the second leg extending below the underside of the body to a second leg work piece-contacting surface perpendicular to the first side surface and parallel to the surface of the work piece; and

wherein the center leg is moveable to a plurality of positions between the first leg and the second leg to form a second tunnel having a selected width through which a cutting device may pass, the second tunnel defined by the second leg, the center leg and the underside of the body

~~a handle extending above the top of the body, the handle being attachable to the body at a plurality of positions relative to the first leg and the center leg.~~

Claim 3 (cancelled).

4. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim ~~3~~ 2, further comprising the first leg having a width different than a width of the second leg.

Claim 5 (cancelled).

6. (original) The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising a non-slip surface formed on each of the first work piece-contacting surface and the center work piece-contacting surface.

7. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising a spacer removably attached to the first leg and having a spacer side surface remote from the first side surface and having a spacer bottom surface, the spacer attachable to the first leg in a plurality of positions to extend the spacer bottom surface below a plane of the first leg work piece-contacting surface.

8. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising:
a spacer having a non-slip surface and a slip surface opposed the non-slip surface; and
the spacer being selectively attachable to the first leg to position one of the slip surface and the non-slip surface as a spacer bottom surface.

9. (currently amended) The apparatus of claim ~~3~~2, further comprising:
the first, second and center leg work piece-contacting surfaces being disposed in a first plane; and
a balance support attached to one of the first leg and the second leg, the balance support comprising a bottom support surface extendable to a position below the first plane.

10. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising:
a spacer attached to the first leg and moveable to a plurality of vertical positions relative to the body;
a stabilizing plate attached to the spacer and having a stabilizing plate edge extending under the first leg and moveable to a selected one of a plurality of horizontal positions.

11. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 10, further comprising a hook formed in the stabilizing plate edge.

12. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 10, further comprising:
an open-ended slot formed in the spacer;
a shoulder washer;
a bolt attached to the stabilizing plate and extending through the shoulder washer; and
the shoulder washing being sized to form a snug fit when inserted into the open-ended slot to attach the stabilizing plate to the spacer.

13. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising:
a shield comprising a connector to position the shield at a first position relative to the body;
the shield further comprising a second connector to position the shield at a second position relative to the body.

14. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising:
a keyway formed in the top of the body;
a shield comprising a first key for insertion into the keyway to position the shield at a first position relative to the body;
the shield further comprising a second key for insertion into the keyway to position the shield at a second position relative to the body.

15. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 14, further comprising:
a handle;
a nut disposed in the keyway; and
a bolt extending through a hole formed in the handle and threaded into the nut for connecting the handle to the body.

16. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 2, further comprising a tapering device comprising a first edge extending to make parallel contact with an edge of the work piece and a second edge moveable to a plurality of angles with respect to the first edge.

17. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 16, wherein the tapering device comprises:

- a bottom plate;
- a top plate pivotally attached to the bottom plate and fixable at a plurality of angles in relation thereto;
- a first memory stop connected to the bottom plate for abutting the top plate when it is positioned at a first of the plurality of angles; and
- a second memory stop connected to the bottom plate for abutting the top plate when it is positioned at a second of the plurality of angles.

18. (currently amended) An apparatus for guiding a work piece through a cutting device, the apparatus comprising:

- a structure comprising a flat surface for ~~movement~~sliding along a side of a fence of a cutting machine parallel to a cut line defined by a cutting device, the structure further comprising a first leg and a second leg defining a tunnel through which the cutting device may pass, the structure comprising at least two co-planar work piece-contacting surfaces for applying force to a surface of a work piece on each of two opposed sides of the cutting device, the work piece-contacting surfaces being co-planar relative to the surface of the work piece; and
- a means for adjusting a width of the tunnel to accommodate a plurality of cut geometries.

19. (original) The apparatus of claim 18, further comprising a non-slip surface formed on each of the work piece-contacting surfaces.

20. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 18, further comprising a means for balancing the structure when the work piece has a width insufficient to make contact with the work piece-contacting surfaces on both opposed sides of the cutting device.

21. (withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 18, further comprising a means attached to the structure for maintaining an edge of the work piece at a selected one of a plurality of angles with respect to a cut line.

22. (currently amended) An apparatus for guiding a work piece through a cutting device, the apparatus comprising:

a structure defining a tunnel through which a cutting device may pass, the structure comprising at least two work piece-contacting surfaces that are co-planar relative to a surface of a work piece for applying force to a the surface of the work piece on each of two opposed sides of the cutting device; and

a handle attached to the structure and moveably fixable at any one of a plurality of positions along a width of the structure for positioning the handle relative to the tunnel to position the handle directly above the cutting device as it passes through the tunnel.

23. (original) The apparatus of claim 22, further comprising the handle being moveably fixable at a position wherein a longitudinal axis of the handle is disposed at an angle relative to a longitudinal axis of the tunnel.

Claims 24-34 (cancelled).

35. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein at least one of the first leg, second leg and center leg is removeably attached to the body.

36. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the first leg comprises a width different than a width of the second leg.

Claims 37-38 (cancelled).

39. (previously presented) The apparatus of claim 18, further comprising a handle affixable to the structure at a plurality of positions to select the position of the handle relative to the first leg, second leg and cut line.